

In the Claims:

1-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Previously Presented) A system for playing media items, the system comprising:
a playlist server adapted to be communicatively coupled with the Internet, the playlist server having a plurality of playlists stored thereon;
a content server adapted to be communicatively coupled with the Internet, the content server having a plurality of media items stored thereon;
a rendering device for playing a media item;
a set-top box in communication with the rendering device for facilitating communication of the media item from the content server to the rendering device via the Internet; and
a remote control for controlling the set-top box;
wherein the remote control is operative to obtain one of the plurality of playlists stored on the playlist server, facilitate selection of a media item from the playlist, and direct the set-top box to request the media item from the content server and cause the media item to play on the rendering device.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the remote control is dockable to the set-top box.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the remote control is dockable to the set-top box and is in wired communication with the set-top box when docked thereto.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the remote control is dockable to the set-top box and can be used to control the set-top box when docked thereto.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the remote control comprises a display and a keypad for facilitating control of the set-top box.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the set-top box comprises a display and a keypad for facilitating control thereof.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the rendering device comprises at least one of a stereo system, a television, a digital home system, a DVD player, a stand alone monitor, a computer monitor, a cellular phone, a PDA, a laptop computer, and a speaker.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the media item comprises at least one of a song, a talk, a speech, a comedy sketch, a story, a picture, a video, a movie, and a television show.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 16~~ claim 20, further comprising:
receiving, at the portable wireless device, a second media item from the network content server; and

playing the second media item at the portable wireless device on the remote control
operatively connected to at least one of a speaker and earphones;

wherein the remote control portable wireless device is operative to concurrently control
playback of the requested media item at the rendering device via the control device the media
player via the network.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 16~~ claim 20, wherein the requested media item comprises at least one of a song, a talk, a speech, a comedy sketch, a story, a picture, a video, a movie, and a television show.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining content, comprising:
receiving, at a portable wireless device, a playlist comprising a plurality of identifiers, each of the plurality of identifiers identifying a respective media item;
selecting, at the portable wireless device, one of the plurality of identifiers;
requesting a respective media item identified by the selected identifier from a content server;

receiving the requested media item at a control device in communication with the content server and the portable wireless device; and
playing the requested media item at a rendering device.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the portable wireless device comprises a remote control operable to affect functionality of the control device.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the control device comprises a set-top box.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the control device is operatively connected to the rendering device.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising receiving the playlist from a playlist server.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the rendering device comprises at least one of a stereo system, a television, a digital home system, a stand alone monitor, a computer monitor, a cellular phone, a PDA, a laptop computer, and a speaker.
26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the plurality of identifiers comprise titles of media items.
27. (Currently Amended) A set-top box for obtaining content from a remote content server, comprising:
 - a wireless interface operative to receive directions from a remote control apparatus;
 - a network interface operative to facilitate communications with a remote content server;
 - a rendering-device interface operative to communicate with a rendering device; and
 - [[a]] the remote control apparatus having a display and operative to display a playlist of identifiers, each of the identifiers being associated with a respective media item;

wherein the remote control apparatus is operative to direct the set-top box to request a media item associated with an identifier selected from the playlist of identifiers from [[a]] the remote content server, and the set-top box is further operative to direct [[a]] the rendering device to play the media item.

28. (Previously Presented) The set-top box of claim 27, wherein the rendering-device interface comprises the network interface.

29. (Previously Presented) The set-top box of claim 27, wherein the rendering device comprises at least one of a stereo system, a television, a digital home system, a DVD player, a stand alone monitor, a computer monitor, a cellular phone, a PDA, a laptop computer, and a speaker.

30. (Currently Amended) The set-top box of claim 27, wherein the remote control apparatus is further operative to:

receive a list identifying a plurality of playlists;
~~, and further operative to select one of the playlist from the plurality of playlists; and obtain the playlist from a playlist server.~~

31. (Previously Presented) The set-top box of claim 27, wherein the media item comprises at least one of a song, a talk, a speech, a comedy sketch, a story, a picture, a video, a movie, and a television show.

32. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein receiving the playlist comprises receiving the playlist at the portable wireless device from a playlist server.

33. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein requesting the respective media item comprises: providing information, from the portable wireless device to the control device, instructing the control device to request the respective media item identified by the selected identifier from the content server; and

sending a request for the respective media item from the control device to the content server.

34. (New) The set-top box of claim 27 wherein the remote control apparatus is further operative to obtain the playlist from a playlist server.